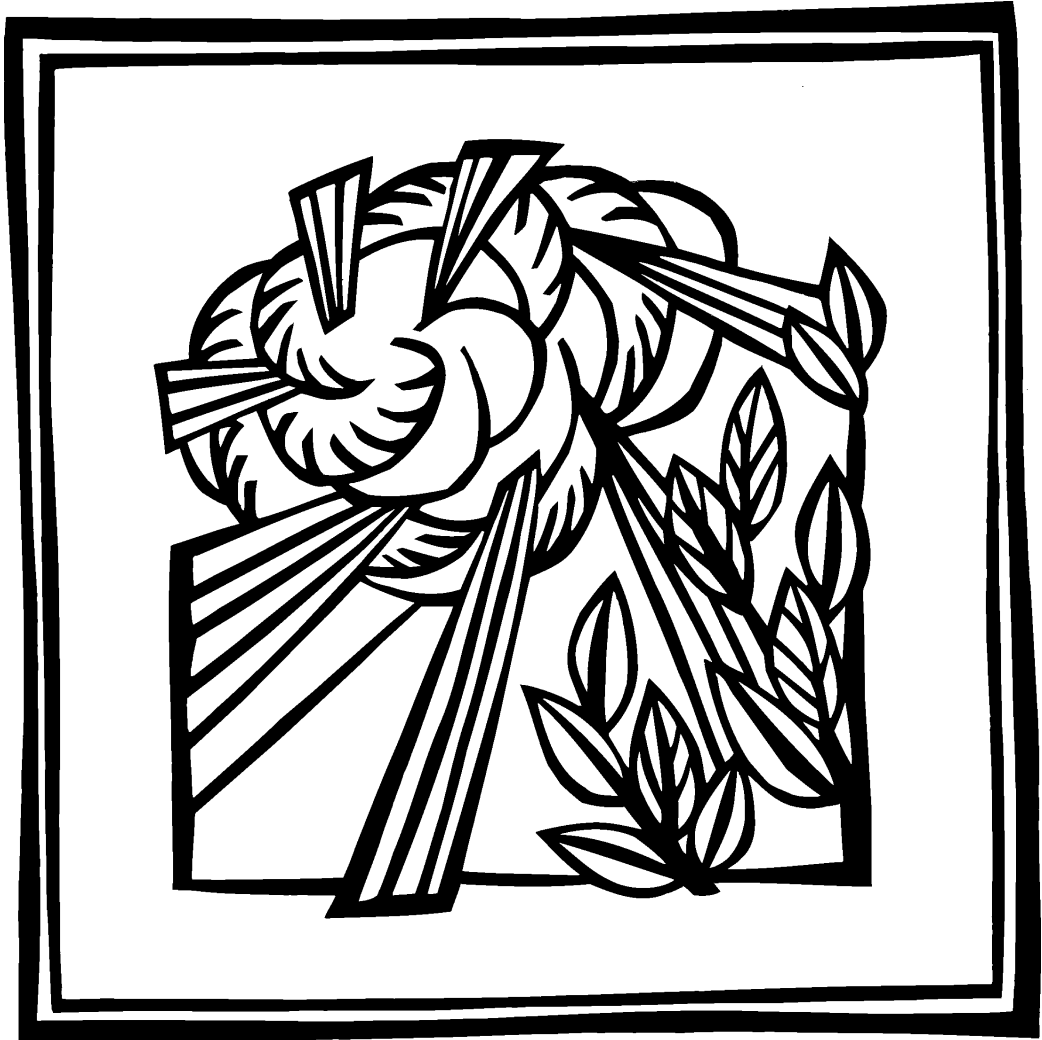


Second Sunday of Christmas



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ

Jan 2, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

20300 Hilliard Boulevard
Rocky River, OH 44116
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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal! All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us, **masks are required in the building**. Masking of young children is up to the discretion of parents. Council continues to monitor the situation.*

Second Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude, Welcome, and Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

This Christmas Call to Worship features alternating scripture verses from Isaiah chapter 9 and John chapter 1.

† **Call to Worship**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son.

His ruling authority shall grow continually, and there will be no limits to the wholeness he brings.

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

He will establish and uphold God's kingdom with justice and with righteousness, from this time on and forever more.

The Word became flesh and lived among us. Come, let us worship him!

**Gathering Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful
ELW 283 vs 1 & 3**

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

	<p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>○ come, let us adore him, ○ come, let us adore him, ○ come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!</p> <p>3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><small>Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2</small></p>
<p><i>The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.</i></p>	<p>† Greeting</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.</p>
<p><i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.</i></p>	<p>† Prayer of the Day</p> <p>Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

To put this reading into context:

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Hear now a reading from the book of Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and

things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

The Gospel reading is announced by the pastor. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect for the Gospel that reveals Jesus Christ to us. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-18

To put this reading into context:

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being

through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Rev. David Connor

Silence for Reflection

† Hymn of the Day: Cold December Flies Away
ELW 299

- 1 Cold December flies away
at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks
while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen pow'r
of the tree which bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree
blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose
here in love's own garden,
full and strong in glory.

- 2 In the hopeless time of sin
shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death.
Eyes were closed in sleeping.
But, when all seemed lost in night,
came the sun whose golden light
brings unending joy,
brings the endless joy
of our hope, highest hope,
of our hope's bright dawning,
Son belov'd of heaven.

3 Now the bud has come to bloom,
and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flow'r
dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth
from the moment of its birth;
and its beauty lives.
In the flow'r it lives,
in the flow'r, and it spreads
in its heav'nly brightness
sweet perfume delightful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*As the church, we
pray for those in
our community and
around the world.
The prayers are also
responsive,
emphasizing our
own participation.*

† Prayers of the Church

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need especially . . . as well as those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support. This QR code will take you directly to Good Soil's online giving page.



† Offering Prayer

Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings wholeness to the earth.

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive grace upon grace that
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. Receive the elements and then return to your seat before partaking of them.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn: What Child is This ELW 296

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

*With the blessing of
God, we go out to
live as Christ's body
in the world.*

The Sending

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the
shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a
star, bless you this day † through the Word made
flesh.
Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn we
are sent out into the
world to follow
Jesus.*

**† Sending Hymn: Let All Together Praise Our God
ELW 287 vs 1-3**

- 1 Let all together praise our God
before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again
and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.
- 2 From God's right hand the Son descends,
is born an infant small,
and lies in poverty, his bed
a manger in a stall,
a manger in a stall.
- 3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh
the splendor of your might;
a servant's garb now wraps the one
who clothed the sky with light,
who clothed the sky with light.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

*The dismissal sends
us out into the
world as Christ's
Body—fed,
nourished, and
ready to serve.
Worship has ended,
and our service
begins!*

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Jan 2, 2022

For those in need of healing, comfort or strength: Linda Beebe, Diane Bennett, Gary Dennison, Evatt Family, Barry Hollowell, Char Mattson, Joyce Miller, Mitterholzer family, Ann Norman, Jerry and Marie Sternad, Tony Sykaluk, Gloria Syverson, Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating birthdays: Eric Carlson (Jan 3)

The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board outside the Lounge. If you'd like to adorn the altar with a gift of flowers in honor or memory of someone or a special occasion, sign up for a date and please indicate your dedication and whether you want one vase or two. The cost of each vase remains at \$20 for 2022 unless special flowers are requested. You can take your flowers home at the end of the worship service.

Help U.S. Tornado victims through Lutheran Disaster Response

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to respond to the hurting world around us. To support disaster relief, scan the QR code to the left. 100% of your donation will go straight to helping disaster victims through Lutheran Disaster Response. Please report your donation to Good Soil for our records as well.



Calendar of Upcoming Events		
Day	Event	Time
Sun, Jan 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School Resumes • Confirmation Class 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Tues, Jan 11	GS Executive Team Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sun, Jan 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship] • Sunday School 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed	
Tues, Jan 18	GS Council Meeting	7:30 a.m.
Sun, Jan 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Confirmation Class 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Sun, Jan 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Sat, Feb 5	Ladies' Breakfast – Gene's Place	9:00 a.m.

2021/2022 Church Council

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Tom Smith	330-715-0369	tomgsmith07@gmail.com

To Whom Shall We Go?

Building a Culture of Generosity and Stewardship	Eric Carlson
Dandelion Project	Sharon Hollowell
Endowment Fund	Tom Smith
Gathering Again Task Force	Alex Alusheff
LMM Breaking New Ground	Barbara Munch
Open Doors Grant	Amanda Inman
Property	Larry Jacobson
Renters/Rental Contracts	Joe Lanter

Abby Alusheff	Social Media Outreach Dir.	welsh.abby@gmail.com
Julia Alexander	Worship and Music Coord.	julia.alexander@oberlin.edu
Jessica B	YouTube Channel Mgr.	See church directory for contact info.